

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 /110 R

DRAFTED BY AF/ E: WBCOOTE

5/10/73 EXT 29742

APPROVED BY AF: E: WBCOOTE

AF: MR. NEWSOM (SUBSTANCE)

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R 102027 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 089188

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, ET, SO, IT

SUBJECT: SOMALI- ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS

1. ITALIAN AMBASSADOR ORTONA CALLED ON ASST SECY NEWSOM
TO BRIEF HIM ON RECENT VISIT OF SOMALI V- P CULMIE TO ROME.

2. CULMIE DELIVERED FRIENDLY MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT
SIAD TO ITALIAN PRESIDENT LEONE IN WHICH LATTER EXPRESSED
APPRECIATION FOR ITALIAN FRIENDSHIP AND ASSISTANCE AND
UNDERLINED STRONG TIES WHICH EXIST BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.
SIAD INVITED LEONE TO VISIT SOMALIA AND INVITATION WAS
ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE BUT NO DATE SET.

3. CULMIE CONVEYED TO ITALIANS SIAD' S QTE GREAT INTEREST
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AND DESIRE UNQTE TO COMPLETE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH FRG AS WELL AS DESIRE TO AMELIORATE RELATIONS WITH US. GSDR WOULD APPRECIATE ANY HELP WHICH ITALIANS MIGHT PROVIDE LEADING TO IMPROVEMENT SUCH RELATIONS. ITALIAN PRESIDENT PROMISED PASS THIS INFORMATION TO BOTH USG AND FRG AND OTHERWISE DO WHAT HE COULD TO BE HELPFUL.

4. IN MEETING WITH PM ANDREOTTI, CULMIE STATED THAT ALTHOUGH SOMALIA MAINTAINED ITS TERRITORIAL CLAIMS TO OGADEN, GSDR HAD NO INTENTION OF USING FORCE IN CARRYING OUT ITS POLICY OF UNIFICATION OF TERRITORIES

INHABITED BY SOMALIS. HE ADDED THAT RECENT ETHIOPIAN TROOP MOVEMENTS IN BORDER AREAS CAUSED SOMALIS TO FEAR SUDDEN MILITARY ACTION BY ETHIOPIANS. SOMALIS ALSO WORRIED ABOUT ETHIOPIA AND KENYA TEAMING UP AGAINST THEM. GSDR, THEREFORE, WOULD APPRECIATE ASSISTANCE OF ITALY, POSSIBLY TOGETHER WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, IN USING INFLUENCE TO DISCOURAGE POSSIBLE ETHIOPIAN AND KENYAN COLLABORATION AGAINST SOMALIA.

5. ORTONA CONCLUDED BY EXPRESSING VIEW THAT THIS TALK WAS PARTICULARLY TIMELY IN VIEW HIM'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK.

6. NEWSOM COMMENTED THAT ETHIOPIANS TOO ARE IN STATE OF AGITATION AT WHAT THEY BELIEVE TO BE MAJOR MILITARY BUILDUP IN SOMALIA AIMED AGAINST ETHIOPIA. FORTUNATELY RECENT MINOR CONFRONTATIONS HAVE NOT RESULTED IN MAJOR CLASH AND SITUATION SOMEWHAT COOLED NOW. BOTH SIDES SEEM TO WANT PEACE. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS WE HAVE RELAYED TO IEG, TWICE DIRECTLY TO EMPEROR, SIAD'S ASSURANCES TO US THAT HE DESIRES PEACEFUL RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA. AS WE HAVE INDICATED TO BOTH SIDES, WE HOPE THAT TWO LEADERS WILL MEET AT OAU SUMMIT AND DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER. NEWSOM SAID THAT WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO CALM ETHIOPIAN CONCERNS OVER MILITARY ASPECTS OF PROBLEM, BUT THAT IS ABOUT EXTENT WE CAN GO. ON TERRITORIAL ISSUE IEG HAS EQUALLY AS STRONG VIEWS AS GSDR AND IS NOT SUBJECT TO OUTSIDE INFLUENCE.

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7. ORTONA ALSO PASSED TO NEWSOM SUBSTANCE OF APRIL 19 CONVERSATION WHICH AYALEW, ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR TO SOMALIA, HAD WITH DEPARTING ITALIAN AMBASSADOR TERUZZI. AYALEW ATTRIBUTED OVERDRAMATIZATION BY GSDR OF DANGER OF CONFLICT AT BORDER, AND THUS MUCH OF CURRENT TROUBLES, TO INTEREST BY SOVIETS TO MAKE SITUATION APPEAR WORSE THAN IT IS SO THAT GSDR WILL REGARD SOVIET ROLE IN SOMALIA

AS INDISPENSABLE. ROGERS

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